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DISCOVERY OF THE FEMALE OF THE BLACK-
THROATED ROBIN, *ERITHACUS OBSCURUS*
(BEREZOWSKY AND BIANCHI)

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In July, 1965, a letter from King to Ripley asked help in identifying a small specimen of chatlike thrush, and requested that it be added to the bird collection of the U.S. National Museum. The specimen has been critically examined by the senior author, who compared it with specimens in the collections of the U.S. National Museum, the American Museum of Natural History, and the British Museum (Natural History). To the authorities of the latter two institutions we wish to express our thanks for many considerations and kindnesses.

Ripley (1958) pointed out that the female of *Erithacus obscurus* (a species which had been confused with *E. pectardens* [David] was unknown, and that probably part of the confusion which had resulted in attempts to suppress one species by lumping with the other as a color phase or polymorphic population would be resolved by finding the unknown female of *obscurus*. This supposition has been verified with the collecting of the present specimen in a mist net by King's field team 3 February 1965, at Bung Guy, 7 km S of Chieng Saen, Chieng Rai, northern Thailand. This specimen measures: Wing 68, tail 49.5, culmen 12, tarsus 28.5 mm. These measurements are slightly smaller than those of females of *pectardens* which typically have wing measurements in the 69-73 mm range and tail measurements of 52-55 mm. While the wing measurements of male *obscurus* are roughly similar to those of *pectardens* (see Ripley, *op. cit.*, p. 3), there does seem to be a slight tendency towards a longer tail in male *pectardens*, a tendency borne out by this single female speci-

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men when compared with female *pectardens*. Color of the soft parts of the female *obscurus* specimen was as follows: iris dark brown, bill blackish brown, mandible slightly paler; feet brownish blue, claws brown, mouth flesh. The condition of the ovary indicated that the specimen was not in breeding condition.

In color the differences are striking. The female *obscurus* is olive brown above, more light olive than warm brown as in *pectardens*. The upper tail coverts are russet and the tail brown as in *pectardens*.

The areas below the throat, the upper breast and the flanks are grayish buff rather than rich buff, the center of the lower breast and belly white. The vent and under tail coverts are sandy-buff, paler than in *pectardens*. The overall impression is of a soft cool-gray-brown bird, much less warmly or richly colored than *pectardens*. These muted tones match chromatically the blues and blacks of the adult male *obscurus* in contrast to the blue and orange of *pectardens*. The single specimen was taken in low rolling hills above a large marsh at 1300 feet above sea level. The predominant vegetation was bamboo mixed with stands of grass, a few shrubs and scattered trees. *Erithacus cyane* (Pallas) was noted in the vicinity.

This record adds a new species to the migratory avifauna of Thailand and extends the range of *Erithacus obscurus* (as noted by Ripley, in Peters, 1964, p. 10), known previously only from southeast Kansu and southwest Shensi, west China.

LITERATURE CITED

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